

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as shown below.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 11, and continuing on page 2, with the following amended paragraph:

Recent years have witnessed the wide diffusion of the imaging devices, such as digital still cameras, which are equipped with a solid-state imaging element. Digital still cameras are required to have an improved image quality as they become popular more than before. Particularly, those digital still cameras equipped with a solid-state imaging element having a large number of pixels need an imaging lens, especially a zoom lens, with good image-forming performance. They are also required to be small in size, and hence there is a strong demand for a small-size high-performance zoom lens. (See Japanese Patent No. 2750775 [Patent document 1]) On the other hand, attempts are being made to reduce the size of the zoom lens in the direction of an optical axis by bending the optical system with a prism inserted between lenses. (See Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 248318-1996 [Patent document 2])